DAWN

METRO South

KARACHI Thursday, November 13, 2025

KARACHI

Sunset	05:46pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:46am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	16°C
Maximum	31°C
Humidity	62%
Outlook	Sunny

Auger-Aliassime off the mark at ATP Finals

Pg.20 SPORT

POLICE check bags and other belongings a passenger is carrying in a rickshaw on his way to the Cantonment Railway Station. Security has been beefed up in the city after recent terrorist attacks in the country. —PPI

Three medical students drown in sea as DUHS picnic turns into tragedy

- Two rescued students hospitalised in 'critical condition'
- Varsity claims picnic for 150 students was planned at Hawkesbay, 15 of them went to Manora on their own
- Says recreational activity was part of annual events held for graduating students

By Imtiaz Ali

KARACHI: Three students drowned in the sea on Wednesday while two others were rescued as a picnic of final-year students of the Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) turned into a tragedy, police and the varsity administration said.

South DIG Syed Asad Raza told *Dawn* that the incident occurred at Manora Beach around noon when one student began to drown while swimming. Four of his friends rushed to help him but were also taken away by the strong currents.

The deceased were identified as Mohammed Asharib, 24, Ahmed Kashif, 23, and Ashad Abbas, 23. The two rescued students, Rizwan, 24, and Majeed, 24, were taken to a hospital and were in a "critical condition".

The police said a beach hut had been booked in the name of a navy official, whose son, Asharib, was among those who lost their lives.

DUHS version

A statement issued by the DUHS administration said the drowned youths were final-year students at the Dow Medical College. The picnic was part of the annual events held for the graduating students.

"It is a long-standing tradition for each final-year batch to spend a week celebrating various events, including a qawwali, dress show and picnic. The picnic was part of this tradition," said the statement.

It added that as per the arrangements, a total of 150 students had gone to the picnic near Hawkesbay Beach in the university's bus, accompanied by security guards.

However, 15 students from the same batch separately planned another picnic at PNS Himalaya, Manora. "It has been reported that the venue [a hut] was booked by the father of one of the students, where the group went to enjoy their outing," it added.

The DUHS said that the administration had arranged for 150 students to travel to Hawkesbay with security guards and all necessary safety measures. However, the college administration and the principal of Dow Medical College were not informed about the separate Manora picnic organised by the 15 students. "The students who went to Hawkesbay returned safely to the college, while the tragic incident occurred at Manora," it added.

The university has also announced that a condolence meeting in memory of the martyred students will be held on Friday (tomorrow) at 9am in the Moin Auditorium on the campus.

Man dies by suicide after murdering wife

A young man ended his own life after murdering his wife in Malir City on Wednesday, police said.

They added that Zeeshan Haroon, 35, died by suicide after strangling his wife, Sana, 30, inside their home in Burhani Town.

Malir City SHO Adeel Shah, quoting the son of the deceased, said the couple lived in the upper portion of the house while their children lived on the ground floor.

On the day of the incident, Zeeshan prepared breakfast for his children in the morning. When the children asked about their mother, he told them she was asleep and that they should not disturb her. After having breakfast with them, Zeeshan went to his room on the upper floor, where he strangled his wife with the help of her dupatta. Later, he hanged himself in the same room with the help of a rope.

The officer attributed "family issues" as the probable motive for the incident. The bodies were shifted to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre for medico-legal formalities.

Trader shot dead in 'targeted attack' at Azizabad shop

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A young trader was shot dead in a suspected targeted attack in Azizabad, police said on Wednesday.

They said that Hassan Ali Bantva, 23, was gunned down in Block-3, F.B. Area.

Azizabad SHO Waqar Kaiser said that the victim had a mobile phone shop in Saddar electronics market. He usually closed his shop between 10:30pm to 11pm and returned home.

On Tuesday night, he arrived at his brother's cell phone shop in Siddiqabad, Azizabad at around midnight. As his brother went home, he stayed at the shop for around 10 minutes and in the meantime three assailants riding two motorcycles emerged there, the SHO said.

He said the pillion rider on one of the bikes resorted to indiscriminate firing and they all rode away.

Bantva sustained four bullet wounds and was taken to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The officer said the murder appeared to be a targeted killing incident but the exact motive would be ascertained after investigations.

The officer said the police are waiting for relatives to lodge an FIR to formally initiate legal proceedings.

Investigators have collected four spent bullet casings fired from a 9mm pistol at the crime scene.

His funeral prayers were held in Bantva Nagar and he was laid to rest at the Sakhi Hasan graveyard on Wednesday.

Two women die of dengue in Karachi and Hyderabad

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Sindh health department has said that two more women died of dengue in Karachi and Hyderabad, bringing the death toll to 29 this year.

It said one of the deceased patients lived in Karachi's Liaquatabad area.

The department said that a total of 5,412 tests were conducted across Sindh during the last 24 hours, out of which 976 tested positive for dengue.

In Karachi Division, 3,951 tests were carried out with 528 confirmed cases. As many as 1,461 tests were conducted in Hyderabad division which resulted in 448 positive cases.

Health Secretary Rehan Baloch stated that 127 new dengue patients were admitted to government hospitals and 84 to private hospitals in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, 96 patients were discharged from government facilities and 79 from private hospitals after recovery.

So far this month, 8,331 dengue cases have been reported in Sindh, raising the total number of infections this year to 13,908.

Currently, 269 patients are under treatment in government hospitals and 184 in private facilities across the province.

For dengue patients, 293 beds have been allocated in Karachi's public sector hospitals, 167 in Hyderabad, and 556 in other districts, totalling 1,026 across Sindh.

In private hospitals, 482 beds have been reserved for dengue patients, the health department said.

Ban planned on import of exotic animals not native to Sindh

Karachi zoo does not comply with standards set under wildlife laws, CS told

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah has expressed serious concern over reports of violations of the Sindh Wildlife Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Management Act, 2020 at the Karachi Zoo and directed the Wildlife Department to take immediate corrective measures in accordance with the law.

The chief secretary also instructed the authorities to draft clear legal provisions prohibiting the import of exotic species not native to Sindh.

The directives were issued at a meeting held to review the performance, legal framework, and enforcement mechanisms of the Sindh Wildlife Department. The secretaries of law, forest and wildlife departments and the chief wildlife conservator attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the CS highlighted the importance of regulating trade and ownership of exotic animals, directing that no import of exotic species shall be permitted unless specifically approved for scientific or research purposes.

The chief secretary directed that all exotic animals already present in the province be treated with care, properly registered, and continuously monitored.

Wildlife Conservator Javed Mahar informed the meeting about the current implementation status of the Sindh Wildlife Protection Act, highlighting enforcement gaps, ongoing violations, and pending litigation.

Referring to legal requirements for the possession and keeping of big cats, Mr Mahar explained that an applicant must possess a minimum area of 400 square yards, with 50 per cent reserved for vegetation such as grassy ground, trees, deadwood logs, and an elevated artificial rockery.

There must be two rooms equipped with stepwise elevated shelves for resting, a green-painted floor, and a gentle slope for proper water drainage. The outdoor courtyard must include two dens, a partition, and a water pool with a proper drainage system, where the water is replaced daily.

He noted that the Karachi Zoo does not currently comply with these mandatory standards as per the Sindh Wildlife Protection Act.

It was revealed that 129 wildlife-related summary trial cases were currently pending before various courts across Sindh since 2020.

The chief secretary directed the department to prepare a comprehensive compliance report on all ongoing cases and assured that he would personally take up the matter with the chief justice of the Sindh High Court to ensure early hearings and effective resolution of pending wildlife cases. He emphasised

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35 years of reunification of Germany celebrated

CM Murad hails German unity as global inspiration, pledges deeper ties

By Tahir Siddiqui

KARACHI: The German consulate general in Karachi on Wednesday celebrated 35 years of the reunification of the country.

German Unity Day, hosted by German Consul General Thomas E. Schultze, kicked off with a live performance by a popular German band, playing iconic anthems of Pakistan, Germany and the EU.

People from all walks of life including government functionaries, diplomats, business and trade leaders, politicians, etc, attended the event at the German consulate.

Speaking on the occasion, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah lauded the reunification of Germany as a "powerful example of determination, hope and unity" that transcends deep divisions, inspiring reconciliation, cooperation and progress worldwide.

He underscored Germany's long-standing and trusted friendship with Sindh and Pakistan, highlighting the celebration as a reflection of enduring spirit.

He emphasised the critical need for nations to build bridges of cooperation and understanding to confront contemporary global challenges such as climate change and instability.

Recalling robust ties between Germany and Pakistan since the early years of independence, he noted how this relationship had flourished in Sindh through collaborative efforts in education, renewable energy, vocational training, health, and climate resilience.

He specifically acknowledged the valuable contributions of German businesses and development partners based in Karachi, which have significantly enhanced economic and friendly bonds.

Praising Sindh's ancient tradition of openness and hospitality, the chief minister reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to deepening cooperation with Germany, particularly in the areas like green growth, youth education, innovation, and sustainable urban development.

Concluding his address, Mr Shah expressed his wish for the continued strengthening of friendship and partnership between Germany, Sindh, and Pakistan, celebrating shared values of peace, partnership, and progress. He extended congratulations to the German people and thanked the hosts for the celebratory occasion.

Addressing the participants, German Consul General Thomas E. Schultze said Germany remained the biggest trade partner of Pakistan within the European Union.

He said that many German companies had long-standing relations in Pakistan.

Mr Schultze said that Pakistan and Germany had successfully concluded bilateral negotiations on development cooperation

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CHIEF Minister Murad Ali Shah speaks, alongside German Consul General Thomas E. Schultze, at the event.—Shakil Adil / White Star